

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

March 4, 2004

IN RE:

**PETITION OF BELL SOUTH LONG DISTANCE, INC.
TO PROVIDE COMPETING LOCAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

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**DOCKET NO.
03-00602**

**ORDER CONVENING A CONTESTED CASE PROCEEDING, GRANTING
INTERVENTION AND APPOINTING A HEARING OFFICER**

This matter came before Chairman Deborah Taylor Tate, Director Pat Miller and Director Sara Kyle of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on February 9, 2004, for consideration of the *Petition of BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. to Provide Competing Local Telecommunications Services* filed on November 13, 2003. On December 30, 2003, AT&T Communications of the South Central States, LLC ("AT&T") filed a *Petition to Intervene* ("*Petition*") in this matter. On January 13, 2004, BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. ("BSLD") filed its Objection to AT&T's *Petition*.

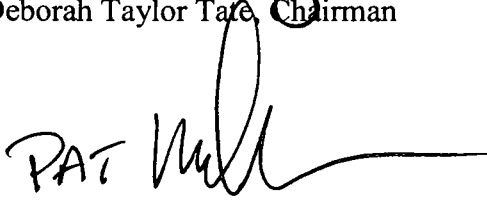
The panel initially considered AT&T's *Petition* at the January 26, 2004 Authority Conference, at which time AT&T was directed to provide a written statement more fully explaining the basis for its intervention request. AT&T filed its statement in the form of a Response to BSLD's Objection on January 27, 2004. On February 6, 2004, BSLD filed a Reply to AT&T's Response.

During the February 9, 2004 Authority Conference, the panel again considered AT&T's *Petition* and voted unanimously to grant intervention to AT&T and appoint the Authority's General Counsel or his designee to act as the Hearing Officer in this proceeding to hear preliminary matters prior to the Hearing, to rule on any petition(s) for intervention, and to set a procedural schedule to completion.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. A contested case proceeding is convened pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201.
2. AT&T Communications of the South Central States, LLC is granted leave to intervene and receive copies of any notices, orders or other documents in this matter.
3. The Authority's General Counsel or his designee is appointed Hearing Officer in this matter to hear preliminary matters prior to the Hearing, to rule on any petition(s) for intervention, and to set a procedural schedule to completion.


Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman


Pat Miller, Director


Sara Kyle, Director